Child marriages

1475. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of girl child marriages, below the age of 18 during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the percentage of literacy among married girl children, State-wise; and

(c) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst the married girl children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Office of Registrar General, India has informed that the age at marriage of girl child is not available year-wise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New IITs and IIMs

1476. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up new IITs and IIMs to provide top of the education to a large number of students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the new Institutes proposed to be set up in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) In view of the announcement made by the then Prime Minister on Independence day 2003, an Expert Committee to identify such promising academic institutions to be upgraded to IITs was set up by the Government, which has since submitted its Report. The Expert Committee while finally short-listing seven Institutions/Universities for the purpose observed that all identified Institutions fall far below the level of existing IITs in all criterions used for the short listing. The Committee was, therefore, of the view that in the light of the substantial gap between the selected Institutions and

IITs, it would not be correct to position these Institutions straightaway alongside the IITs.

There is a proposal with the Government to set up a new IIM in the North Eastern Region (NER).

There is no proposal for setting up a new Institute by way of IIT or IIM in Orissa.

Confusion in seat sharing

1477. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether confusion and uncertainty prevails in the matter of seat sharing between Government and College Managements in professional courses; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to clear the confusion and safeguard interest of the student community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government have no such information. Admissions to professional courses are regulated by the respective State Governments or Universities as the case may be. The Central Government has prepared a draft Bill as requested by several State Governments, for the regulation of admissions and the fixation of fee in private professional educational Institutions. The draft has been circulated to all the State Governments, concerned Ministries and other stakeholders to elicit their views.

Facilities to visually handicapped students

1478. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether visually handicapped students pursuing graduate and post-graduate courses are provided with recorded course materials and are allowed to take assistance of writers in the examinations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;